

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 232965

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TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, HA

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON REGIE DU TABAC

REF: (A) STATE 231797; (B) PORT AU PRINCE 2498

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARTICLE IN WASHINGTON POST
SEPTEMBER 18 (PG. A16) TITLED "HAITIAN OFFICIAL FIRED."

2. QUOTE: HAITI PRESIDENT JEAN-CLAUDE DUVALIER HAS FIRED
THE LONG-TIME HEAD OF THE COUNTRY'S STATE TRADING
MONOPOLY, SUSPECTED OF BEING THE SOURCE OF MILLIONS OF
DOLLARS USED FOR PRIVATE AND POLITICAL PURPOSES BY THE
DUVALIER FAMILY, THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN REPORTED IN
LONDON.

HENRY SILLAIT (SIC), MANAGER OF THE REGIE DU TABAC, AND
40 OF HIS AIDES WERE SENT OUT OF THE COUNTRY IN A MOVE
THAT HAS CAUSED A FURTHER SPLIT BETWEEN THE YOUNG
RULER AND POWERFUL HOLDOVERS FROM THE REGIME OF HIS LATE
FATHER, THE LATE FRANCOIS DUVALIER, THE GUARDIAN SAID.

THE TRADING MONOPOLY'S OPERATIONS HAVE LONG BEEN A
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PAGE 02 STATE 232965

TARGET OF INTERNATIONAL CRITICS OF HAITI AND U.S. OFFICIALS

REPORTEDLY HAVE LONG SOUGHT A CHANGE IN ITS OPERATIONS IN

ORDER TO MAKE THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT MORE ACCEPTED
INTERNATIONALLY. END QUOTE. ROBINSON

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